

August 19, 2016

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U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

I swam in the Willamette River as a child, specifically Swan Island Lagoon which is full of contamination. I'm still alive 70 years later with no symptoms. I think the issue of contamination in the Willamette is all bull. The government is using this as a way to waste more of our money. They find one little item in there and then want to use millions of taxpayers' dollars to play games. I worked in the shipyards, and I know what crap went through there. During WWII, 20 billion gallons of oil spilled in the Atlantic Ocean, yet all the fish came back. The fish would not have come back if it was that bad.

Digging up contaminants that are now buried under the bottom of the river will only cause more problems. It's time to vote the idiots out who are not thinking logically in this situation. When you dredge up the river, you don't simply move the sediment and that's that. Even the water running off the barges that are moving the material is contaminated once you've dug it up and that spills right back over into the river.

Creating a construction zone 10 miles long will kill the city's economy. The Navy comes in to have their ships worked on. Tankers come in to load up with grain. If these boats and ships can't get where they need to go for years because of construction restrictions, all those jobs will be lost. When those workers no longer have a job how will they afford to foot the bill for this project? The rise of our already ridiculous tax rates and increased utility bills will make us all homeless if they keep going. The Portland water bill is a cash cow now. Anytime the city needs money, the water rates go up. It's time to start thinking logically about this entire situation and stop using it as a way to simply milk taxpayers for more and more money.

Leaving the river alone and letting it self-restore is the best way to combat this so called problem. I'm still not convinced the problem is as bad as the EPA and others are telling us it is. I have been swimming in the Willamette and the Columbia Rivers for years. I'm amazed I'm still alive if things are as bad as they tell us say. I think those behind this are out of their minds. They need to go back to school and actually study the amount of people who have swam in the river and have no negative side-effects from it.

Sincerely,

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